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History and current status

Since July 2005, the Irra Wangga–Geraldton Language Programme has continued work on the Wajarri language, producing publications including a print dictionary and a dictionary app, working with schools involved in the teaching of the language, and holding weekly community language classes (as of 2008). In 2008 Wajarri became the first Australian Aboriginal language available at senior secondary level (TEE) in the state of Western Australia.

Sketch grammars of Wajarri have been written by Douglas (1981) and Marmion (1996).

Wajarri	
Native to	Australia
Region	Murchison area of Western Australia
Ethnicity	200 Watjarri (1981), ^[1] ?Nokaan
Native speakers	20 (2005) ^[2]
Language family	Pama–Nyungan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kartu <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watjarri languages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wajarri
Dialects	Watjarri <p>Birdungu (Pidungu)</p> <p>? Nhugarn (extinct 1967)</p>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	wbv
Glottolog	waja1257 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/waja1257) ^[3]
AIATSIS ^[4]	A39 (https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/A39)

Phonology

Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
High	i i:		u u:
Low		a a:	

Consonants

	Peripheral		Laminal		Apical	
	Labial	Velar	Dental	Palatal	Alveolar	Retroflex
Stop	p (b)	k (g)	t̪ (th)	c (j)	t (d)	ɖ (rd)
Nasal	m	ŋ (ng)	n̪ (nh)	ɲ (ny)	n	ɳ (rn)
Lateral			ɭ (lh)	ʎ (ly)	l	ɭ (rl)
Rhotic					r (rr)	
Approximant	w			j (y)		ɻ (r)

The symbols in brackets show the forms used in the practical orthography employed in the Wajarri dictionary, where these differ from standard IPA symbols. Although Douglas (1981) claimed there was no laminal contrast (i.e. no phonemic contrast between the dentals and palatals), Marmion (1996) demonstrated that there is such a contrast.

Vocabulary

According to Julitha Joan Walker (1931–2009), her first name, "julitha" was a Wajarri word for "walkabout".^{[5][6]}

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6. "'Walkabout with Julitha' " (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article224556917>). *Weekly Times* (4455). Victoria, Australia. 10 November 1954. p. 56. Retrieved 16 October 2019 – via National Library of Australia.

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